

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PPT-01 NEA-06 L-02 PER-01 A-01

SCA-01 RSR-01 RSC-01 /033 W

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R 201245Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0436

INFO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1075

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPAS APER LY

SUBJECT: PASSPORTS: TRADE-OFF OF OFFICIAL VISAS/ENTRY?

REF: TRIPOLI 1000 AND 1011

1. THIS IS TO CONFIRM WHAT COULD BE ASSUMED, NAMELY THAT THE EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY PROMISING RESPONSE TO ITS HINTS THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TRADE VISAS AND ENTRY FOR OFFICIALS WITH THE LARG. NO MORE HINTS HAVE BEEN DROPPED BY US SINCE THAT REPORTED REFTELS, BUT THE FOLLOWING HAS OCCURED:

A. WHEN CONSOFF MET AUG 15 WITH YUSUF SHAYBANI, MFA'S CHIEF OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LATTER ASKED HOW MANY AMERICANS WERE AT THIS EMBASSY AND SEEMED SURPRISED THE NUMBER (12) WAS SO LARGE BY COMPARISON TO THE STAFF AT LARG EMBASSY WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, HE DID NO DIRECTLY ALLUDE TO THE IDEA OF A TRADE-OFF OF VISAS AND ENTRY, AND PER MY INSTRUCTIONS CONSOFF DID NOT RAISE IT EITHER.

B. DAVID MIZE OF AFME REPORTED BACK TO ME THAT HE SUGGESTED THE GENERAL IDEA OF A TRADE-OFF OF VISAS, AT MY REQUEST (TRIPOLI 952), TO ACTING MINISTER OF
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FOREIGN AFFARIS OBEIDI. LATTER SAID THAT MUCH AS

HE WAS PERSONALLY FAVORABLE TO MIZE'S IDEA, IT COULD NOT WORK FOR TWO REASONS: 1) HE COULD NOT MAKE A MOVE AT MFA WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE RCC'S REPRESENTATIVE THERE (AN UNIDENTIFIED MILITARY OFFICER).

2) EVEN IF HE COULD ARRANGE APPROVAL FOR A SPECIFIC VISA, HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO CONTROL ON THE PROBLEM OF ENTRY; THAT WAS HANDLED BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (AND NO DOUBT CAPT SHU'AYB OF THE MILITARY POLICE).

2. COMMENT: IF LARG IS EVER CONCERNED ENOUGH ABOUT THE THINNESS OF ITS REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON, BELIEVE THIS WILL NOT OCCUR AT LEAST UNTIL THE SHAPE OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN MERGER CLARIFIES. BELIEVE SOME CLARIFICATIONS WILL EMERGE ON OR ABOUT SEPT 1, BUT WHETHER THEY SUFFICE IS ANOTHER QUESTION. IF ANY MINISTRIES MERGE, HOWEVER, ALL INDICATIONS ARE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRIES ARE AT THE TOP OF THE LIST.

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